Outdated waste disposal technology

230. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that outdated incinerator-based waste disposal technologies which are already discarded by US and Europe are still being used in the country;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to sign MoUs with Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Service Limited (IL&FS) and other private companies to set up plants that convert solid waste to energy;

(c) if so, by when the MoUs are expected to be signed and the plants would start running; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) The three projects on energy recovery from Municipal Solid Wastes undertaken in the recent past have been based on biomethanation and combustion of Refuse Derived Fuel.These technologies as well as that of incineration have not been discarded in US and Europe.

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal.

(d) Projects on energy recovery from Municipal Solid Wastes can be taken up by urban local bodies, other Government Organisations or private developers, or through public private partnership.

Developing alternative sources of energy

231. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the fiscal allocation and expenditure for developing alternative sources of energy *i.e.* solar, wind, etc;

(b) the steps taken to implement and aid independent innovators;

(c) whether Government are aware of huge potential available in the North-East in general and Assam in particular; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to tap this potential?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) A Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) of Rs. 4000 crore was allocated to the Ministry for the development and deployment of new and renewable energy for the 10th plan period (2002-07). Against this, the budget provision was Rs. 3106.25 crore, which was further reduced to Rs. 1988.44 crore at the revised estimate stage. The actual expenditure during this period was Rs. 1718.69 crore. The budget provision for 2007-08 is Rs. 628 crore.

(b) The Ministry provides financial support for innovative projects on research, design and development of new and renewable energy from research institutions, industry and universities.

(c) Yes, Sir.